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1. (Amended) A method of processing search results obtained in response to a user query, the method comprising:

providing document pointers returned by a search engine to identify a source from which documents are available;

generating at least two visual abstracts for one of said documents, each of said visual abstracts being thumbnail images of a different size; and

formatting a stream of data such that when said data is displayed on a display screen regarding said one of said documents, a smaller one of said visual abstracts appears adjacent to a corresponding search result.

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10. (Amended) A method of processing search results obtained in response to a user query, the method comprising:

examining document pointers returned by a search engine to identify a source from which documents are available;

obtaining said documents from said source;

generating a visual abstract for each of said documents, each visual abstract being an image thumbnail formed by manipulating a corresponding source document so as to enhance visibility of at least a first portion of said source document while degrading visibility of at least a second portion of said source document; and

formatting a stream of data such that when said data is displayed on a display screen, each visual abstract appears adjacent to a corresponding search result.

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22. (Amended) A method of searching for a document, said method comprising:

supplying a search request;

providing abstracts of documents on a screen display that correspond to said search request, said abstracts including a written summary and a first visual abstract of each of said documents;

creating a second visual abstract of one of said documents, each of said first visual abstract and said second visual abstract respectively being a thumbnail image of said document, wherein said second visual abstract is larger than said first visual abstract; and

displaying said second visual abstract when requested by a user.

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20. (Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said machine to perform method steps for processing search results obtained in response to a user query, said method comprising:

supplying a search request;

providing abstracts of documents on a screen display that correspond to said search request, said abstracts including a written summary and a first visual abstract of said documents;

creating a second visual abstract of one of said documents, each of said first visual abstract and said second visual abstract respectively being a thumbnail image of said document, wherein said second visual abstract is larger than said first visual abstract; and

displaying said second visual abstract when requested by a user.